

The theme of this thesis is the film festival from historical and contemporary perspective. The first chapters are mainly focused on the development and deconstruction of festivities, sabbaths and celebrations. I have conducted an analysis of the ancient official sabbaths focusing on the process of a gradual separation of sabbaths and folklore festivities, in which order and formality are suppressed, from those festivities which have standing order and rules.

As a connecting thread between the traditional festivities and contemporary form of the festivals I have chosen the theme of spontaneity, liberation from hierarchical relations, norms and commitments. Further more I was looking for an interconnection based on the ritualistic behavior of festival and festivity participants. I found a certain similarity between the ritualistic behavior of traditional community members, people from the Middle Ages, renaissance era, and modern contemporary society. I have observed forms of ritualistic behavior among festival visitors particularly those visiting Karlovy Vary International Film Festival. For several years I have been professionally involved with this Festival and simultaneously have had the opportunity to compare KV IFF with other Czech and European festivals, which I attend regularly.